

April 27, 1916.

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Military Situation.

There are a crop of rumours concerning the fighting which took place in the vicinity of Woosieh during the past few days. The following account is the result of careful investigation and it may be taken as substantially correct.

About 8 days ago the rebels in Kiangyin sent representatives to Wusieh who requested a loan of \$80,000.00 from the Chamber of Commerce in that City. They threatened that they would attack the City if the money was not forthcoming. The Chamber of Commerce while pretending to the rebel representatives that they were considering the matter, sent a telegram to Chiangchun Feng of Nanking requesting him to send troops to guard the City. As a result of this request about 500 infantry and 500 cavalymen arrived in Wusieh from Nanking about noon on 22nd instant. The same day the Chamber of Commerce announced to the rebel representatives that they declined to accede to their request.

About 9.30 a.m. 23rd instant the Nanking soldiers started from Wusieh with the intention of taking up a position at some point between that City and Kiangyin where they would intercept soldiers who were sent from Kiangyin to attack Wusieh. The infantry travelled by boat and the cavalry by land, both forces keeping in touch with each other. The Kiangyin rebels learned of the plans of the Government troops and came forward to meet them with the result that when the Northern troops reached a point some twenty li ~~to the north~~ ~~west of~~ Wusieh ~~City~~ about 5.30 p.m. 23rd instant the rebels who were under cover opened fire on them with rifles and field guns killing and wounding several Government soldiers and sinking one of their boats. The latter then beat a retreat to Wusieh. The rebels did not pursue them.

The following day the Government troops who had come from Nanking were re-inforced by troops from Woosieh City. They returned to the attack and drove the rebels back to a place called Ching Yang 清楊 some twenty li from Woosieh. The rebel outposts are still at that place. Since the incidents mentioned took place, further contingents of Government troops have arrived in Woosieh from Woosung and Nanking. It is

estimated that there are now three thousand Government soldiers in Wusieh and another thousand are expected to arrive very soon. It is stated that these troops will march against the Kiangyin forces and that another contingent of Government troops will advance on that place from Changchow. The rebels have little chance of successfully resisting these converging forces and it is feared that they will split up and form themselves into numerous robber bands.

No firing has been heard in Wusieh since 2 a.m. 24th inst. The shops which had been closed since the evening of 23rd inst began to open on the afternoon of that day and everything had assumed a normal appearance on 25th inst. The Nanking soldiers have established their headquarters in the Chi Ta hotel. No looting has taken place in Wusieh and on the whole the Government troops seem to be well disciplined and behaved but the people here are greatly perturbed in consequence of a rumour that some of General Chang Haun's troops are being sent here.

Five men alleged to be rebel spies were arrested in Woosieh on 24th inst and shot the following day.